

REMARKS

Status of Claims:

Claims 1-21 are present for examination.

Specification:

The specification has been amended to correct some minor informalities.

Obviousness Rejections:

Claims 1, 5, 9, 13, 17, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jaeger et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication Number 2002/0091951) (hereinafter Jaeger) in view of Bingley (U.S. Patent Number 4,631,470).

Claims 3, 7, 11, 15, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jaeger in view of Bingley and further in view of the applicant's admitted prior art (AAPA).

Claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jaeger in view of Bingley and further in view of Nelson et al. (U.S. Patent Number 5,973,942) (hereinafter Nelson).

With respect to claims 1-21, the rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant is submitting herewith a verified English translation of applicant's Japanese priority document number JP 2001-050345. This document was filed on February 26, 2001 and, thus, antedates the Jaeger reference that was filed on December 28, 2001. As such, the Jaeger reference is not prior art against applicant's claims.

Therefore, the rejections with respect to claims 1-21 must be withdrawn. The Patent Office has not made out a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103 with respect to claims 1-21.

Conclusion:

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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By Justin Sobaje

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (310) 975-7965
Facsimile: (310) 557-8475

Justin M. Sobaje
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 56,252